Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1665 - July 10 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1665 with a release date of Friday, July 10th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. IARU Region 3 cancels its 2009 Amateur Radio Direction Finding championship games, AMSAT says that SuitSat-2 has lost its suit but will still fly, transportation problems cause another delay for the Glorioso Island DXpedition, Germany's Ham Radio show likely now matches Dayton in attendance and a contest for D-Star users is announced. Yes, we said a contest for D-Star users and you can find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1665 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIOSPORTS: IARU REGION 3 ARDF GAMES CANCELLED DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS

Political unrest in Thailand has lead to the cancellation of a ham radio direction finding event. Joe Moell, K0OV, reports:

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Things haven't gone well in IARU Region 3, which encompasses most of Asia and the Pacific islands. Thailand, also known as the Land of Smiles, was scheduled to host those regional championships from October 29 through November 3 near Bangkok.

Two of USA's best radio-orienteers were planning to attend. But now there's no smiling among the organizers, who reluctantly decided to cancel the event due to increasing political unrest there. In the streets, the Yellow Shirts, supporters of the present government, are taking on the Red Shirts, who are loyal to the former Prime Minister.

The Radio Amateur Society of Thailand was concerned about safety of competitors and spectators, so the championships were cancelled. There is no time to schedule the Region 3 championships in another country. However, IARU Region 1, which includes Europe and Africa, is still planning to hold its ARDF championships from September 16 through 21 on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria. That will be immediately after the Eighth World High Speed Telegraphy Championship at the same location.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Joe Moell K0OV.

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This announcement of the cancellation was made on Friday, June 26th by JA1HQG. He is the chairman of the IARU Region 3 ARDF Committee. In his statement JA1HQG said that there was insufficient time to make alternate arrangements to hold the championships in another Region 3 country this year. (K0OV, Southgate)

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RADIO POLITICS: SECURITY MANDATES OPERATIONS CUTBACK AT 4U1ITU

A famed ham radio station at the literal heart of telecommunications is cutting back its operations due in part to security issues. The DX Newsletter says that International Telecommunications headquarters station 4U1ITU will be on the air a lot less in coming days.

The restricted activities are the result of a decision of the general assembly of the International Amateur Radio Club's decision made in May. Spokesman Gerald Lander, HB9AJU, says that there were several reasons led to this decision. This includes the increased levels of security at the ITU headquarters and a changed recognition of amateur radio in international communication. Lander did not say what this changed recognition or security issues are but he did add that another reason for the cutback in operation was 4U1ITU is no longer among the most wanted countries anymore.

Lander's statement says that the International Amateur Radio Clubs has now decided to focus its activities on special modes or conference delegates. Also that it will limit all overnight and weekend activities as much as possible. More about 4U1ITU is on line at http://life.itu.int/radioclub/ (DXNL)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUITSAT-2 LOOSES THE SUIT PART BUT WILL STILL FLY

The SuitSat-2 ham radio in space transponder will not be in a space suit but the package will likely still fly in space. Due to storage considerations on the International Space Station, the two surplus Russian space suits in storage were discarded via the Progress Cargo Vessel. One of these suits was to be used to house the electronics for the upcoming SuitSat-2 mission.

But all is not lost. ARISS International has been informed that there is still space available for shipment of the SuitSat-2 electronics on a cargo flight to the I-S-S in January 2010. Also, a space-walk scheduled for April 2010 still has a 'SuitSat-2' deployment scheduled to be a part of it. As a result the AMSAT team developing the SuitSat-2 electronics on is focusing on completing the project in anticipation that deployment will still take place in Spring 2010, but using a different structure to house the flight package.

The discarding of the surplus space suits from ISS also removes the 'Suit' component of this ham radio in space deployment. AMSAT says that at some point a new project name will be used to reflect the change in flight hardware configuration. (AMSAT)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUITSAT-2 TEAM TO MEET - BUILD - AND TWITTER

And speaking of SuitSat 2, or what was to be called SuitSat-2, many members of the integration team were scheduled to meet in Phoenix, Arizona during the weekend of July 10th to the 12th. In a press

release the team says that it expects to put all of the hardware modules together that have been developed in many parts of the country.

The Project Manager is Gould WA4SXM. He says that it is great to be at the point that they can start testing system operations with the hardware and software. You can keep up with the integration activities next weekend using Twitter at twitter (dot) com (slash) ggolulssmith. (ANS)

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RESTRUCTURING: BELARUS HAMS GET NEW 40 AND 160 METER SEGMENTS

The 40 meter expansion continues around the world. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham in the UK with more:

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Amateurs in Belarus has gained access to the extended 40 meter band. In the 7.1 to 7.2 MHz frequency range. Hams in that nation will be permitted to use SSB and CW with 500 watts out under normal operating conditions and up to a full kilowatt in contests with special authorization from that nations telecommunications regulatory authority the Belarus State Commission for Radio Frequencies.

In the same decision of the 160m band has also been extended for Belarus amateurs. The frequencies accessible are now 1,810 to 2,000kHz.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJG in Nottingham.

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The effective date on these changes for Belarus hams was the middle of this past May but have only now been made public. (GB2RS)

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RESTRUCTURING: FRANCE TO EXPAND 40 METER SEGMENT

The French telecommunications regulator ARCEP announced on Saturday, June 27th, that 7.1 to 7.2 MHz will soon be available to the amateur service in that nation. Its reported that only one more signature is needed before official publication and implementation. (GB2RS)

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BREAKING DX NEWS: GLORIOSO DXPEDITION DELAYED AGAIN

Some breaking news in the world of DX. Word that the long awaited Glorioso Island 2009 DXpedition has once again been postponed. This time because of flight problems.

According to several DX news sources, the runway at the airport on Grande Glorieuse Island suffers from stability problems. These have to be solved to allow the safe landing of larger aircraft.

Organizers think that the DXpedition could begin at the end of August, but have not yet released a new date. We will have more DX related information near the end of this weeks newscast. (OPDX, others)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Western Amateur Radio Association net serving Fullerton, California.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: 3.760 NO LONGER BEING PROTECTED FOR POLISH FLOODING

A follow-up to the use of 3 point 760 MHz in Poland following massive flooding in that nation. You may recall that hams around the world were being asked to keep that frequency as clear as possible in case it was needed for disaster relief communications.

Now, Greg Mossop, G0DUB, the IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator says that there is no longer any need to protect 3 point 760 MHz. He says that while there is still a risk of flooding in the South West of Poland, the Public Communications systems are all now operating normally. That said, if you happen to hear any station passing emergency traffic, then please leave the frequency clear and avoid causing QRM.

By the way, while not widely known outside of Europe, Polish stations make use of a slash D suffix on their callsign to indicate that they are working an emergency. This says G0DUB should help in case of any language difficulties. (Southgate)

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RADIO LAW: NEW OREGON MOBILE CELLPHONE LAW EXEMPTS HAMS ABD CB OPERATORS

Oregon drivers soon will have to hang up their cellphones and texting devices under a new law that will ban the use of hand-held communications devices while driving, but mobile ham radio operations will not be affected. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, explains whose in Oregon is covered by it and who is not:

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Oregon House Bill 2377 prohibits driving while talking or texting on a hand-held cell phone. Once in force, drivers who violate the law could be fined up to $90.

Like a similar law in California, the Oregon measure permits adult

drivers the option of using a cellphone with a hands free system. Also like California the Oregon law will forbid anyone to receive or transmit a text message while in motion. It also forbids drivers under the age of 18 from using any form of cellphone or texting device from a car in motion.

Oregon radio amateurs were aware of the measure early on and began a political drive to insure an exemption for mobile ham radio operations. In the version of the measure passed by both houses of the Oregon legislature their work was rewarded.

In addition to hams, also exempt are those operating a motor vehicle while acting in the scope of employment as a public safety officer and people operating a motor vehicle while providing public safety services or emergency services as a volunteer. Also exempt are those using 11 meter Citizens Radio or UHF Family Radio Service two-way radio gear.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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A spokeswoman for Governor Ted Kulongoski said he will sign House Bill 2377 into law. The effective date will be January 1st, 2010. (OregonLive, Oregon Legislative Website)

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RADIO SAFETY: MICHIGAM HAM DIES IN FIELD DAY TOWER COLLAPSE

A Michigan ham has died following a tower collapse during antenna set-up on Field Day.

According to news reports, Larry Prelog, KE4PM, of Niles was helping to erect a thirty-foot high tower for the Blossomland Amateur Radio Association on Saturday, June 27th. He had climbed the tower when it collapsed under him and throwing him to the ground. He was airlifted to the Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo where he succumb to his injuries the following day.

A professional radio technician by trade, Larry Perlog was most recently employed as a telecommunications specialist for Lakeland Regional Health Care System. Throughout his career performed many tower climbs and was considered as being one of the most safety conscious climbers in the business. A family member described him as being very meticulous about being safe.

The Blossomland Amateur Radio Association is accepting donations to help the family. Its address is PO Box 175, St. Joe, Michigan 49085.

Larry Perlog, KE4PM, was age 57. (South Bend Tribune, others)

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RADIO LAW: FCC AND LICENSEE AGREE ON LICENSE CLERICAL ERROR FIX

The FCC has modified the Amateur Radio Service license of Howard A. Schmidt by replacing Amateur Extra Class operator privileges with Technician Class operator privileges. This, after being notified of a clerical error by a VEC who had inadvertently filed an upgrade for him. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

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Back this past April 28th, the W5YI Volunteer Examiner Coordinator sent an electronic data file to the Commission requesting that Howard Schmidt's operator license for amateur Station WB7NUV be modified to upgrade from Technician Class to Amateur Extra and requesting a new sequential call sign. Based on this application, the Commission granted an Amateur Extra Class amateur service operator license on April 28th and assigned him the call AD7ZS.

Then on June 16th, W5YI VEC notified the Commission that it had made an error in the April 28th data file and that Schmidt had not qualified for an Amateur Extra Class operator license. The W5YI VEC asked the FCC to modify Schmidt's license to correct the operator privileges authorized. As a result of this information the regulatory agency proposed to modify the license to show Technician Class operator privileges, and to replace call sign AD7ZS with call sign WB7NUV.

The Order Proposing Modification was released on June 25th. Schmidt was given time to comment and appeal. On June 30th Schmidt informed the Commission that he did not object to modifying his license to show Technician Class operator privileges, but wished to retain his subsequently assigned call sign W7HAS.

On July 7th the FCC did just that. It modified Schmidt's license for station W7HAS by replacing Amateur Extra Class operator privileges with Technician Class operator privileges but permitted the Issaquah, Washington ham to keep the W7HAS vanity call.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for the amateur Radio Newsline.

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And as they say in the nations capital, this matter is now closed. (FCC)

** RADIO PRODUCTS: K9EID RELEASES AFFORDABLE PR-20 UTILITY VERSION MIC

If you have always wanted to try Bob Heil's famed PR-20 microphone in your hamshack but its high price was beyond your means, well now you can afford to own one. This is because the PR-20 has now been made a lot more affordable thanks to K9EID and his company Heil Sound Limited.

What Bob has done is to keep the PR-20 as it is. Just the way he developed it several years ago to be one of the best sounding vocal, announce and music pick-up microphones ever. So this PR-20 called the U T or utility model is no different than any other PR-20 except for the accessories and packaging.

In this case you get the PR-20 mic with a stainless steel grille, a foam windscreen and a matching microphone clip all in a zippered vinyl pouch. Not included with the U T model are the interchangeable gold, silver and black screw-on grill screens, nor the plush padded carrying case.

By leaving these items out Bob was able to lower the price of the PR-20 into the very affordable under a hundred dollar range. That's far less than some vendors charge for the mics that supposedly match the look of certain radio gear bit leave a lot to be desired in the area of on the air sound quality.

You can read the specs as well as see and hear the Heil PR-20 UT on line. Just take your web browser to http://heilsound.com/pro/products/pr20ut/ (PAR, ARNewsline(tm))

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: MISSOURI SKYWARN MEMBER HONORED

Some names in the news. First up is MoKan Skywarn member Dwayne Beaver, N0SZP, of Carthage, Missouri,. HE has been presented with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration award in honor of his 15 years as a cooperative observer for the National Weather Service.

Beaver runs the Carthage weather station that happens to be located in his own home. The Carthage Missouri weather station was first established on March 1, 1940, by the Congressional Statutes enacted by Congress in 1890. For years was located out at the Carthage animal shelter. Only after Beaver began weather observer duties on May 25, 1994, did it move to his home QTH.

Beaver's weather data collecting gear includes an eight-inch rain gauge, a wind gauge, various thermometers and anemometers. Most of this is top of the line weather gathering instrumentation that was provided to him. Beaver also has television cameras installed on the roof of his house looking south for any sign of menacing storm clouds.

The N0SZP weather station in Carthage is one of 96 such stations in 37 counties in Missouri and Kansas. There are about 10,000 such stations nationwide. (Carthage Press)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: VO1DTM NEW RAC VP FOR FIELD SERVICES

Radio Amateurs of Canada has a new Vice President for Field Services. He is Doug Mercer, VO1DTM, who replaces Sue Cooke VE3SUH, who was appointed by the RAC Board of Directors. This, to temporarily fill the position when former Vice President for Field Services Bob Cooke, VE3BDB. He resigned that post to accept appointment as president of Radio Amateurs of Canada on February 24th. Mercer's appointment became effective on July 1st and will continue until December 31st which is the end of the current executive term. He may be contacted by email at vo1dtm (at) hotmail (dot) com. (RAC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: ALBERTA CANADA GETS NEW CSM

Also from up North word that the Alberta Section of Radio Amateurs of Canada has a new Section Manager. This, in the person of Garry Jacobs, VE6CIA.

Jacobs ran unopposed and therefore no balloted election was necessary. He began a two-year term on July 1st succeeding Tom Martens, VE6TRM. (RAC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: ZL2AMJ AWARDED RUTHERFORD THRPHY

Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ, has won The New Zealand Institute of Physics Rutherford Trophy for 2008. This, for his work in developing the radio wave demonstration kits for schools.

The Rutherford Trophy was established in 1973 by the Mathematics and Physics section of the Radio Society of New Zealand's Christchurch Branch. Its purpose is to stimulate the development and improvement of simple lecture and laboratory demonstrations.

As 2009 winner, Johnson will receive a check for $200 New Zealand dollars. Development of his educational kit was supported by The NZART Radioscience Education Trust. Fred's kits and documentation are shown at http://www.nzart.org.nz/waves/radiowaves.html   (NZART)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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WORLDBEAT: DAYTON OR FRIEDRICHSHAFEN - WHICH IS BIGGER

Is the Ham Radio convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany, about to match or even replace Dayton as the worlds most attended amateur radio show? According to several sources this years Ham Radio had an official gate of 17,400 visitors. That's up by 300 from 2008. Also, some 195 exhibitors and radio associations from 30 nations represented at the show.

So far, Dayton has not made public its official attendance figure, but many who regularly attend the Hamvention have speculated that 2009 saw about the same number of attendees as 2008 or maybe a few more. If

that's the case then it would likely put Dayton and Friedrichshafen at least neck to neck. We will have to await the folks in Dayton making public their attendance figures to know for sure.

Meantime, you can make a note of the dates of the 35th Ham Radio will be from June 25th to the 27th in 2010 in Friedrichshafen, Germany. Hamvention 2010 will take place May 14th to the 16th 2010 at its usual home at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. (KH6VP, DJ0QN, others)

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WORLDBEAT: SCOTISH D-STAT REPEATER SET UP WITH LOTTERY GRANT FUNDS

Scotland's Dundee Amateur Radio Club was recently awarded a grant of nearly 3,000 Pounds by the National Lottery Awards for all Scheme. This monies have been used to purchase the equipment required to provide a D Star digital UHF repeater to serve the ham radio community from Dundee, Angus and North Fife. Full information and coverage of this new D-Star Repeater can be found at the D-Star Scotland website at www.dstarinfo.org. (Icom Japan, Southgate)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: TERRESTRIAL TRAINING FOR SOON TO FLY ARISS HAMS

Four astronauts hams have taken part in simulated Amateur Radio on the International Space Station contacts. On Thursday, July 2nd Satoshi Furukawa, KE5DAW and Timothy J. Creamer, KC5WKI had contacts with Ottawa area students in Canada. Later, Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP, participated in contacts with students visiting the Challenger Learning Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. These training sessions are ground based amateur radio contacts using ARISS equivalent equipment to familiarize the soon to fly astronauts with the proper method of making schoolroom contacts from space. (AMSAT)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT DAYTON FORUM VIDEOS NOW ON LINE

Videos of the six presentations at the AMSAT 2009 Dayton Hamvention forum are now on the AMSAT website. The presentations include the Richard Garriott, W5WKQ, talk on his visit to the International Space Station and a presentation on the upcoming what was to be Suit-Sat 2 project by Gould Smith, WA4SXM. To watch these presentations and the others, simply go to www.amsat .org and click on the AMSAT Video News icon about halfway down the page in the left column. (ANS)

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ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING THE J. ROBERTO LEVY RADIO CLUB

On the air, listen out for 4C50C which is an unusual Mexican callsign that will be showing up on the satellites between now and August 31st. Its part of the Work All Colima special event currently taking place in the central Mexican state of Colima.

This event also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the creation of the J. Roberto Levy radio club in that state. To help in the celebration, XE1AO, XE1ATZ, XE1AY, and XE1J have been authorized by the Mexican telecommunications regulator to use 4C50C for satellite QSO's as part of this event.

XE50C will be the call used for terrestrial contacts during the event. For hams outside Mexico, the QSL manager for the both special calls is XE1J. The Mexican QSL bureau will take care of QSL requests from XE hams. (AMSAT, XE1AO)

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ON THE AIR: HONG KONG, SPECIAL EVENT STATION

The 5th East Asian Games will take place on Hong Kong from Dec 5th to the 13th. Starting on July 1st the special commemorative callsign VR2009EAG has been on the air using SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV on 40 through 6 meters until the end of the year. QSL only direct via VR2XMT. (Southgate)

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THE CONTEST CORNER: FIRST EVER D-STAR WORLD CONTEST JULY 25 - 31

On the radiosports scene, Icom Japan has announced that it will be sponsoring the first ever worldwide D-Star Contest. The event will run from July 25th to the 31st and there are several categories of entries including repeater and simplex. Multiple entry into different categories will be allowed.

10 winners will be selected from those participating and will receive either an IC-E80D or IC-80AD D-Star handheld as a prize. The results being announced on the Icom booth at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2009.

For more details and a list of contest rules, please visit the Icom Japan website. Its on-line at http://www.icom.co.jp/world/d-contest. A copy of the contest flyer can be downloaded at http://www.icomuk.co.uk/getFile.asp?categoryID508&cCID377&fFID$ 4) (Icom Japan)

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DX

In DX, word that T32TV is a new operator on the air from Kiritimati. He has been heard on 20 meter SSB after 06:00 UTC. Please be patient with him so as he is not only new to ham radio but news to pile-ups as well. QSL as directed on the air.

CR57FAP is a special call now on the air to celebrate the 57 years that the Portuguese airforce has existed. This station will be active though months end using SSB and some digital modes on 80 through 10 meters. The QSL manager is CT1REP.

W5KDJ, will be active from Madagascar through July 17th He is using CW and RTTY on 160 through 6 meters signing 5R8KD from the shack of 5R8FU. QSL as the operator instructs.

The Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region Group as IV3YNB is active from Grado Island. The operation ends on July 22nd. QSL this one also as directed on the air.

The Venezuelan 4M5DX Group says that it is planning a DXpedition to Lesotho sometime in July. Their callsign will be 7P8YV and the QSLs will be handled by IT9DAA. An exact date or other information was not available as we go to air.

6 meter enthusiasts listen up. HB9QQ, is now active from the Maldives as 8Q7QQ. In addition to his transceiver he has a linear amplifier and is on 50.183 operating the digital JT65A mode. Listen out for him around his moonrise and moonset in search of Sporadic E and EME contacts. QSL via HB9QQ. He will be there through July 11th.

Lastly, 3B8FQ has received approval and will activate St. Brandon Island as 3B7FQ in August. He will be departing Mauritius on August 10th, and returning from St. Brandon on August 30th. Operation will be CW and SSB on 40 through 10 meters. QSL 3B7FQ and via K5XK per the information found on QRZ.com. And you might want to go out of your way to work him. 3B8FQ believes this may be the last trip to St. Brandon for the next five years.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: FIELD DAY COMES TO TV IN KC

And finally this week, if its not the best TV news coverage of Field Day it comes real close. We are talking about the 10 minutes spread across the news on Kansas City's Fox 4 that looked at every aspect of the Field Day operation by the K0GQ group in Raytown, Missouri.:

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Audio: Reporter introduces ham radio. Hear it in the audio version of this weeks newscast available for download at www.arnewsline.org.

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That's reporter Kim Byrns who hosted the coverage in a live remote broadcast from the Field Day site. Her guide was Rayton Amateur Radio Club president Barb Rich, KGï¿½UT who began by explaining the role of ham radio in community service:

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Audio: KG0UT explains role of hams in emergencies. Hear it in the audio version of this weeks newscast available for download at www.arnewsline.org.

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Also interviewed was club member John Zimmerman who brought out some of his vintage gear to show. It was quickly evident that for him Field Day is a passion:

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Audio: Zimmerman tells of his love of Field Day. Hear it in the audio version of this weeks newscast available for download at www.arnewsline.org.

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You can see and hear the whole report posted to YouTube dot com. That's where we got the audio you just heard. Heres a link to it at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3gRWG-EUGU (NF9L, QRZ.com, YouTube, others)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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